

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN:MR

APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS

S/P:RBARTHOLEMEW

S/S: APSHANKLE

S:DPASSAGE

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299102 TOSEC 320086

NODIS

PASS COPY TO LORD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN, PK, IN

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR

WEAPON FREE ZONE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM IO - LEWIS AND S/P - BARTHOLEMEW,
ACTING

1. IN NOVEMBER, PAKISTAN SUBMITTED A RESOLUTION TO THE
UNGA'S FIRST COMMITTEE ON A SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON
FREE ZONE (SANWFZ). TOGETHER WITH MOST OF OUR ALLIES,
WE WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION, REASONING
THAT IT WAS BASICALLY PROCEDURAL (TEXT ATTACHED) SINCE
IT CALLED ONLY FOR "EFFORTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF"
SUCH A ZONE. THERE WAS NO COMPETING INDIAN RESOLUTION,
THE EXISTENCE OF WHICH IN PREVIOUS YEARS CAUSED US TO
ABSTAIN ON BOTH.

2. HOWEVER, SINCE AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE WOULD REPRESENT
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A SHIFT FROM PAST US ABSTENTIONS ON THE SANWFZ, WE

ABSTAINED IN COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO REVIEW OUR POSITION MORE CAREFULLY AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE WOULD WANT TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION WHEN IT COMES TO PLENARY.

3. OUR SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS REVEALED THAT FEW ISSUES OF ANY REAL SUBSTANCE WERE INVOLVED AND THAT THERE WAS

NO CLEARLY PERSUASIVE CASE TO BE MADE FOR EITHER AN ABSTENTION OR AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE. THE KEY ISSUES ARE:

-- THE SANWFZ RESOLUTION WAS OPPOSED IN COMMITTEE BY INDIA. THUS, ONE OF OUR CRITERIA FOR A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE, THAT IT SHOULD BE SPONSORED BY THE STATES OF THE AREA, IS NOT MET. STILL, THE PAK RESOLUTION DOES NOT ESTABLISH A ZONE, BUT ONLY CALLS FOR INTERESTED STATES OF THE AREA TO EXERT EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION.

-- THE INDIANS MIGHT BE CRITICAL OF OUR SIDING WITH THE PAKS, ESPECIALLY IF WE DECIDED TO CHANGE OUR VOTE FROM AN ABSTENTION IN COMMITTEE TO AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE IN PLENARY. THE INDIANS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT MADE A BID FOR OUR VOTE; THE PAKS HAVE. SEVERAL OF OUR ALLIES WHO ABSTAINED WITH US IN COMMITTEE WILL BE VOTING FOR THE PAK RESOLUTION IN PLENARY LARGELY BECAUSE THERE IS NO STRONG REASON FOR DOING OTHERWISE.

-- THERE MIGHT BE SOME BENEFIT TO OUR BROADER NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORT IF WE VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION, AND ON THESE GROUNDS THE UK HAS SAID IT WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR. THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON PAKISTAN SPECIFICALLY, HOWEVER, WOULD BE SMALL, AT BEST.

-- OUR VOTING PATTERN IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS GENERALLY BEEN TO FAVOR SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS, EVEN WHEN THE SUPPORT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA IS NOT FORTHCOMING, E.G. RESOLUTIONS COVERING AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. WHILE RECOGNIZING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, NEA, PM AND S/P ON BALANCE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ABSTAIN. NEA GIVES SPECIAL WEIGHT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAINING EQUIDISTANCE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IO WOULD BE INCLINED TO ABSTAIN, ALTHOUGH COULD SEE AN ARGUMENT FOR VOTING YES IN THE INTEREST OF CONSISTENCY. ACDA COULD GO EITHER WAY. DOD WOULD PREFER TO ABSTAIN.

5. CONSEQUENTLY, WE DECIDED TO INSTRUCT USUN TO ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION.

ATTACHMENT:
PAKISTAN RESOLUTION.

6. DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN; APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS;
CLEARED BY S/P:RBARTHOLEMEW, S/S: S:DPASSAGE

ATTACHMENT

PAKISTANI SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE RESOLUTION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING ITS RESOLUTIONS 3265 B (XXIX) AND 3476 B (XXX)
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN
SOUTH ASIA,

REITERATING ITS CONVICTION THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE WORLD
IS ONE OF THE MEASURES WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE MOST
EFFECTIVELY TO HALTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND TO PROMOTING PROGRESS TOWARDS NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT AS A STEP TOWARDS GENERAL AND COMPLETE
DISARMAMENT UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL, WITH
THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF ALL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS AND THEIR MEANS OF DELIVERY,

BEARING IN MIND THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF
QUALIFIED GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FOR THE STUDY OF THE
QUESTION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES,

BELIEVING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-
FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA, AS IN OTHER REGIONS, WILL
STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE REGIONAL STATES AGAINST
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NUCLEAR THREAT OR ATTACK,

NOTING THE AFFIRMATION BY THE STATES OF SOUTH ASIA NOT
TO ACQUIRE OR MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO DEVOTE
THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAMMES EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR PEOPLES,

RECALLING THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS HAD CALLED UPON THE STATES OF THE SOUTH ASIA
REGION AND OTHER NEIGHBOURING NON-NUCLEAR STATES AS MAY
BE INTERESTED, TO INITIATE, WITHOUT DELAY, NECESSARY
CONSULTATIONS WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING THE NUCLEAR-
WEAPON-FREE ZONE AND URGED THEM IN THE INTERIM TO
REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION CONTRARY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE,

RECALLING THAT RESOLUTION 3265 B (XXIX) HAD REQUESTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO CONVENE A MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONSULTATIONS TO RENDER SUCH ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE REQUIRED,

1. REAFFIRMS ITS ENDORSEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF THE CONCEPT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA;

2. URGES, ONCE AGAIN, THE STATES OF SOUTH ASIA AND OTHER NEIGHBOURING NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AS MAY BE INTERESTED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA AND TO REFRAIN, IN THE MEANTIME, FROM ANY ACTION CONTRARY TO THIS OBJECTIVE;

3. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO RENDER SUCH ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROMOTE THE ABOVE EFFORTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA AND TO REPORT ON THE SUBJECT TO THE ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION;

4. DECIDES TO INCLUDE IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION AN ITEM ENTITLED: "ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA".

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END TEXT.

ROBINSON

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